

MINUTES
GRADUATE COUNCIL
January 19, 2006
1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kenneth Gerhardt, Chair; Dr. Nicholas Comerford,
Dr. Thomas Crisman, Dr. Eileen Fennell, Dr. Abraham Hartzema,
Dr. Linda Hon, Dr. Panagote Pardalos,
Dr. Dietmar Siemann, Dr. Colin Sumners, Ms. Cynthia Puranik

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jane Brockmann, Dr. Kenneth Campbell, Dr. Robert Holt, Dr.
Ann Horgas, Ms. Jensen Montambault, Dr. David Tanner

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Mary Ann Hagler

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Karen Bradley, Dr. Vivian Correa, Ms. Gann Enholm,
Mr. Gary Hartge, Ms. Anne Taylor

I. ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Minutes of the December 15, 2005, Graduate Council Meeting:** Approved. There was an inquiry as to whether the non-PhD report could be modified to reflect which students received discipline-specific terminal degrees, which were distance programs, and which were being awarded because of professional licensure or other market drivers. The data is not collected in that manner. One distinction between graduate and graduate professional degrees is the completion of a thesis for graduate degrees. The report was sent to College Deans to evaluate the information and consider the status of those degrees not being used.
- 2. Elect a Graduate Council member to serve as a voting member of the Senate Council on Research and Scholarship.** Dr. Abraham Hartzema was elected unanimously and agreed to serve.
- 3. Proposal to revise thesis and dissertation final deadlines.** The Editorial Office of the Graduate School presented a proposal to consolidate a semester's deadlines for submission and acceptances of final theses and dissertations to better accommodate the time needed for the actual processes necessary for completion and acceptance. The Graduate Council approved the ETD format effective for students matriculating Fall 2001. During the past 5 years, there have been two different dates posted for submission, and acceptance, of the documents. There has been considerable confusion and misinterpretation of the respective dates, and uneven use of university ETD lab resources. The proposal asked to consolidate the dates and make the final submission and final acceptance of theses and dissertations approximately two weeks

before the end of the semester. This was approved unanimously, and will become effective Fall 2006.

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Updates on graduate education projects. Dr. Gerhardt reported on the following topics.

- a. **Doctoral Completion Grant.** The thirteen departments selected to participate were programs available in all three consortia institutions. Programs have been actively reviewing the “Four Conditions” model and evaluating departmental processes to enhance each of the conditions. A report on the data collected from these thirteen programs about completion and attrition rates is being circulated to all College Deans. The template is very similar to that which will be used by the NRC. Contemporary wisdom is that attrition at the PhD level is approximately 50% nationally.
- b. **Program Evaluation Survey.** All graduating students had the opportunity to complete an on-line exit survey at the end of last semester. The data from the 45% returned will be analyzed and departments informed of findings.
- c. **Job Placement Data:** AAUDE, the AAU data exchange group is working on a model to make data collection about job placement consistent.
- d. **UF Graduate School Website:** There are planned enhancements to give prospective students uniform data on our programs. Data to be displayed will include cohort numbers, completion rates, and demographics. No implementation date has been set.

2. Roles of Graduate Council and Faculty Senate to sunset degrees. The question was raised as to whether the constitution should be amended to indicate that programs which have not granted degrees in X number of years will be eliminated. The current process is that Graduate Council has the authority to review programs, but it was not clear if Graduate Council could require departments to sunset programs. Dr. Gerhardt will find the current constitutional language about Graduate Council authority and present at next meeting.

3. Nominating Committee for new members of the Graduate Council. Traditionally, this committee has been composed of the council’s outgoing members. The Council agreed to continue this process. Dr. Crisman will chair, and Dr. Holt, Dr. Horgas, and Dr. Tanner will serve. Ms. Puranik will represent the graduate students. The charge to the committee was to solicit nominations and candidates. Only graduate faculty are eligible. Graduate Council members can pass names to Dr. Crisman.

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.